CBS MEMORANDUM

FROM: Robert Chandler
TO: IRV DRASNIN cc P. Wolff
DATE: March 7, 1979

Looking at "Inside the Union" at home last night, and despite seeing it for probably the fourth time, I thought it was just first-class. I liked it better each time, and my wife, seeing it for the first time loved it.

Congratulations.

BR

March 7, 1979

CBS News Report
Channal #30
20:00 to 21:00 hrs.
New York, N.Y .

Refer to: Union 1010
03/06/79

Dear Mr. President CBS:

I watched very closely to the program you showed about the union local #1010, East Chicago, Indiana.

I too was in that 1937 strike, as my father, mother, brothers whom most were born in South Bend, Indiana, except my Father and Mother who came from the Royal House of Hohenzollerner's, Prussia.

I watched the Mafia move in and take over, we fought it but a war came along and most uf us had to leave in 1942.

When I was the only brother of six to come back alive in 1946, after serving with the 4th Marine Raiders, 7 campaigns, 5 wounds, that's Purple Hearts. Then they didn't discharge me and I had to go to China, then Korea, after that I got out for thirty days to see if I could get a job in the mills I and my family had died and fought for, only to find all jobs taken by some of my oun ex-nationality Prussian-Serbian illegals. And they are still there, so I went back to the service to die, instead I just lost the use of my two legs and other wounds that ~~bled~~ bleed constantly, so my ass bleds for local #1010, the same as I do literally now.

I obtained my doctoriate in the service between wars in psychology. Six American and one foreign, the University of Seoul, Korea which the United States now doesn't recognize. But they due the foreign doctors that come over here.

Many of us went down the drain the same way, so to us it matters no more. I see all young faces who never fought for anything but a position in a street gang when we starved and bled, your program brought tears to my eye's but know fluid.

People in the United States are getting what they ask for, we took care of the enemy on the field of battle, Japanese, Germans, Italians, and Communist, now let them suffer....The first bomb I hope falls on Kissinger and Califano, then I can die happy.

My people were worriors in the old country and worriors in the United States, what do we get, what does the Nam Vet get? Shafted.

If I can raise the fare, I'm going to fight for Rhodesia who are the only one's that seem to care what freedom is and is willing to fight for it like our forefather in 1776.

In total, I've been wounded fourteen times, if I do die, I hope it is in battle

If you have something to do for an ex-psychologist with foreign diploma, just for fare and found to Rhodesia, I'll take the job. Not first class, just to get ther and small expenses for food and shelter and I'll even pay back what I work for, now you can see how much I want to go, but not for nothing, I'll pay my oun fare by working and even through in the work later by paying one back for the price of fare and found.

Bruce Neitzel

Dr. Bruce Neitzel, Ph.D. USMC Ret'd. Dis.
P.O. Box 54, Corner Grn & 3rd St.
Snelling, Ca 95369

cc:bn

Ans'd 3/26

3821 Storms Road
Dayton, Ohio 45429
March 10, 1979

Mr. George Herman & Producer/Director
C.B.S. REPORTS
C.B.S.
New York, New York

Dear Sirs:
Congratulations and thanks for the excellent show on labor. It may be sounding corny-- but the presentation was in the fine tradition of Edward R. Murrow. While I have long been a follower of CBS News, I had about lost the faith in expecting anything of real substance, much less controversy.

Now a middle class professional and suburbanite-- I started out working in the steel mills of Cleveland. During one period with Rebublic Steel I voluntarily joined the United Steel Workers. Some of the management thought I was either crazy or radical, since it was not required that student-summer workers join up. Meetings were poorly attended then - 1950 - and even then many of the members took the union for granted.

Will copies of your program be available for educators? Someone in the program commented that labor history is not taught in schools, and I agree. It seems odd that "Black Studies", "Womens Issues" may be in the curriculum, yet little is said of the labor movement. Were it not for the latter, the rights of minorities would be academic. Without jobs, money and the precedents set by labor, none of the latter movements could have gotten started.

Again, congratulations--- and please do more like it.

Sincerely,

Thomas A. Diederich

3930 Greenwood St.
Newbury Park, Calif. 91320
March 7, 1979

Mr. George Herman/Mr. Irv Drasnin
c/o CBS Reports
CBS

Gentlemen,

Thank you for a provocative and informative report on the steel workers' union on CBS Reports last night. It was reminiscent of Edward R. Murrow's style of journalism. The photography was a work of art as well as the text.

It's strange but programs such as CBS Reports and Sixty Minutes are the style of programming which establish CBS as a quality network. When CBS veers away from such quality programming and attempts to appeal to a popular medium, I feel something is lost. This seems to have happened of late. There are times when I tune in CBS and cannot tell the difference between CBS and the local TV stations. Most frightening.

Would it be possible to receive a copy of the script for the CBS Reports on the steel workers' union?

The media is our last hope to preserve our democracy. CBS is to be commended for its courage and objectivity in this regard.

Sincerely,

S. M. Rosen

S. M. Rosen

Grand Aerie
Fraternal Order of
Eagles

Office of
MAURICE SPLAIN, JR.
MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR

House Building
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15222

March 8, 1979

CBS
51 West 52nd Street
New York, New York 10019

Gentlemen:

I would be most appreciative if I could get a transcript of George Herman's CBS News Show, "Inside the Union", which was telecast over KDKA-TV, March 6th at 9:00 p.m.

The program reviewed the operation and development of the United States Steel Works of America.

Naturally, we will be happy to pay any charge that may be involved.

Thank you.

Very truly yours,

Maurice Splain Jr.

Maurice Splain, Jr.

CBS MEMORANDUM

FROM: Frankie Lichak
TO: IRV DRASNIN
DATE: March 10, 1979

I just want to drop you a note concerning your documentary on the steelworkers' union.

I don't know how much you know about by background but I was raised in a small steel-producing town in Western Pennsylvania. Every male member of my family has worked in the mills, most of them for all of their working life.

There was absolutely nothing in your program that, as far as I am concerned, did not ring absolutely true. The attitudes and demeanor of the men were exactly as I remember and the program gave a slice-of-life portrayal of those men that, again, as far as I'm concerned, was as interesting as the larger issue of whether goest United Labor.

It was also the best damm strung together documentary I've seen in a hell of a long time.

MAR 20 79

124 W. Gorgas Lane
Phila. Pa. 19119
March 15, 1979

Mr. Dan Gold, General Manager
WCAU-TV
City Ave. and Manument Rd.
Phila. Pa. 19131

Dear Mr. Gold:

This is a belated note to congratulate you on a fine documentary, Inside the Union. I though George Herman was excellent in letting workers tell the story. I was also glad that I had seen the show from the beginning. My father-in-law, and I am afraid, other trade unionists,who saw only the second half would get the impression that it was biased against the union. It was good and I hope we will have some more thoughtful examination of the union movement, past and future. It is a huge topic and sadly neglected.

Again, thank you for a job well done.

Sincerely,

James T. Ryan

cc John O'Connor

March 20, 1979

C B S
51 West 52nd Street
New York City, New York 10019

Re: CBS Reports - Inside the Union

Gentlemen:

Please send me a copy of your CBS Report entitled Inside the Union which was aired on March 6, 1979, on our local WOWT television station channel 6.

I am currently enrolled in a class called Introduction to Business and we are being tested on it the 3rd of April so any help you could give me would be appreciated. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Peggy L. Williams

Peggy L. Williams
2409 South 48th Street
Omaha, Nebraska 68106

(BS,

315568 APR 2079

Inside the Union was
the best thing I've seen on
TV in years
Give us more of the same

Bill Carey

4/8/79
Norton Wheeler
3740 N. Romero Rd A-199
Tucson, AZ 85705

Dear Sir or Madam, APR 23 79

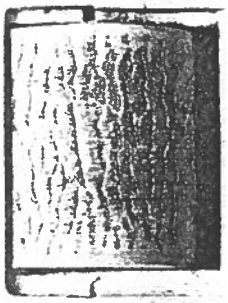
Do you have any remaining copies of the script for "Inside the Union," the CBS Reports that was aired on 3/6/79? If so, could you possibly send me a copy?

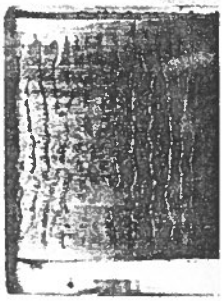
I would be most appreciative if you could help me out. Some material from the program would fit in nicely with research I am doing for a masters thesis in labor history.

I am enclosing $1 to cover postage and handling, and if there is any further charge, could you bill me?

Thank you in advance for any help you can provide.

Sincerely,
Norton Wheeler



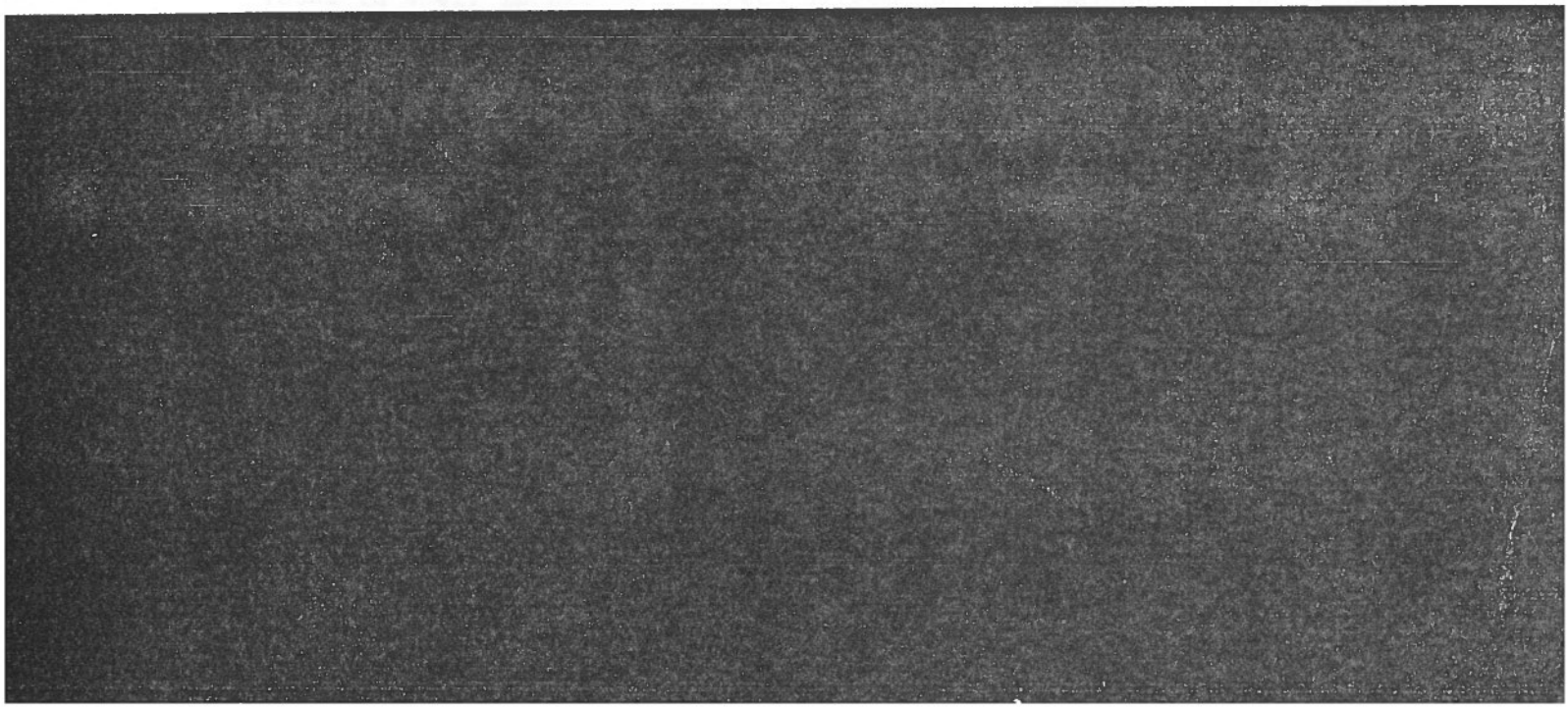


CBS MEMORANDUM

FROM: Irv Drasnin
TO: BOB CHANDLER
DATE: April 5, 1979

Here's a draft response to the letter from James McFadden of the Manpower Education Institute.

Thanks for sending on the letter from Frank Ripley, and your response. I enjoyed both.



DRAFT RESPONSE TO MR. MCFADDEN

Dear Mr. McFadden:

Your letter of 9 March regarding "CBS Reports: Inside the Union," raises some questions which deserve a response.

1. To have informed the audience that steel union locals "elect delegates to participate in the negotiations with the steel companies" would have been misleading, at best. If the "delegates" you refer to are the Wage Policy Committee members, they are in fact elected at district conferences and they have no vote. (As the USWA Officers Report 1978 states: "The duties of the committee members are confined to the initiation and formulation of wage policy for our entire membership.")

Local union presidents in basic steel do vote on the contract (the Basic Steel Industry Conference) but they are elected as union presidents, not as negotiators, and they do not conduct referendum votes in their locals on contract agreements. It may help to understand the realities of the contract negotiation and agreement process by reference to the New York Times report on the last steel negotiations in 1977:

"The five-member leadership teams from both sides that have spent the last month in intensive discussion...have been locked up with the gold at Fort Knox for all that anyone outside the union and industry high command has been allowed to know of the degree of progress... Several hundred lesser officials on both sides have been negotiating on minor issues, but until now they have had no inkling of what has been happening under the big top, or more accurately, in the bathysphere. The first lifting of the veil will come tomorrow when the union team reports to the organization's 30 member International Executive Board. On Friday the 600 members of the union's basic steel industry conference will be told officially whether there is an agreement and be given a chance to vote on it if there is." (NYT, 4/6/77) When the conference did vote on the agreement, a standing vote of 148-143 rejected it. A second, roll-call, vote accepted the agreement, 193-99. In both cases, the number of local union presidents attending and voting was less than half the total number (of 600). This is a far cry from the referendum vote, "the right to ratify", being sought and debated within the union.

2. The broadcast did indeed include pro and con on the ratification issue, USW President Lloyd McBride himslef defended the current procedures in answer to a direct question from Correspondent George Herman. As for the election of international officers by a referendum vote of the membership, that fact is not disputed and never came up. In fact, the election procedure is well known both within and without the union. The election of international officers was not at issue during the time the broadcast

was being prepared and will not be again until next year; the convention was, and accordingly, we covered it.

3. You raise several questions about procedures at the convention and our coverage of them. In each instance, your version is at odds with our experience in covering the 1978 convention from its beginning to end. In fact, many if not most resolutions are passed routinely with little or no discussion. The "reasonable limit" you refer to on the number of speakers on any given issue is of course a matter subject to many interpretations, and disagreement. We did not find anyone in favor of the power to filibuster, nor was it true that at this convention, at least, those opposed to a resolution "always (had) much more time (to speak)...than those supporting resolutions." The broadcast stated that both sides were heard in the debates that did occur, just as the broadcast stated there were two views of the convention itself -- both of which were heard.

4. The question of outside contributions to candidates for international union office is a complicated one, but the basic positions of those for and against were stated explicitly in the broadcast, as follows:

"The leadership sees it (a resolution prohibiting such contributions) as a way to keep the union free of outside influence. Local 1010 sees it as an attempt to stop challenges to the leadership."

5. It would have been only fair to "present the reasoning behind the no-strike provision in the steelworkers' (contract)" if only one side had been

included in the broadcast; but neither side of that issue was covered. A steelworker referred to the "right to strike" (or lack of it) in his description, as he saw it, of democracy in the union -- an issue that was covered. In fact, your letter presents only one side of the question. Another view, widely held among steelworkers we spoke with (including many neither active in the union nor members of Local 1010), is that the current ENA agreement has taken away from the steelworker his traditional and ultimate leverage in bargaining with the steel companies, thereby undermining the union's position in contract negotiations. (Many workers also had quite a bit to say about the question of steel imports which you raise, but no documentary on any subject can cover all the issues and this was one we did not have time to include; but it should be pointed out that there is also more than one view on this issue as well.)

Beyond these specific questions, you seem to overlook every effort of the broadcast and of the steelworkers themselves to be fair and balanced. Moreover, it was made clear that the leadership of Local 1010 was in a decided minority at the convention, although it is the biggest local in the USW and does have support in other locals. But even that can be misleading, as evidenced in the considerable minority vote cast in the last election of international officers. If anything, that serves only to reinforce the question -- raised by many steelworkers -- of how representative the convention is of the membership at large.

I appreciate your concern and I hope these facts help to clarify the questions you've raised.

Sincerely,

Manpower Education Institute
Chartered By The Board of Regents of The State of New York

127 East 35th Street
New York, N.Y. 10016
Phone (212) 532-4747

James J. McFadden
President

March 9, 1979

T. Leahy

Bob C -
Pse prepare reply for me
thx

RECEIVED
JOHN D. BACKE
MAR 13 1979

Mr. John Backe
President
CBS
51 West 52nd Street
New York, N.Y. 10019

RECEIVED
MAR 22 1979
BILL LEONARD

Dear Mr. Backe:

On Tuesday night, our family watched "Inside The Unions". For them it was an opportunity to learn something about labor. At the conclusion my children and my wife turned to me with a variety of questions.

"Daddy, why don't the union bosses allow the workers to vote?'

"Why don't they get a chance to speak at their conventions?"

"Why can't they strike?"

"Why shouldn't anybody, who wants to, be allowed to give money to labor unions?"

(1) Should the audience have been informed that Steel local unions elect delegates to participate in the negotiations with the Steel companies? It is these delegates who accept or reject a proposed contract. (2) Should the picture include the reasons, pro and con, for these procedures? In addition (3) could it have been pointed out that the Steelworkers' leadership are elected by a refererdum vote of the union membership in elections that government agencies review for fairness? — no one disputes this, though there were many disputes of former Steelworkers leadership under the old system

(4) Should the program have explored the question of why outsiders would desire to contribute to union elections and should the program have explored the possibilities that these outsiders, who could be employers or have some political cause to promote, would soon tire of interest in Steel unionism. Should you have looked into what help the same outsiders gave the Mine Workers in their recent strike or what help Caesar Chevez is now receiving from them? I'm afraid that if the Steelworkers get into trouble they wouldn't be this year's fashionable fad for outsiders to play.

It's interesting that while the dissident local wanted the right to vote on the contract and take this power away from their own elected representatives, they would give the power of money to others in no way connected with Steel.

(5) In fairness, should the program have presented the reasoning behind the no-strike provision of the Steelworkers? It could have pointed out that in the past, in anticipation of strikes, employers increased their inventory. Since they had an inventory, they could take a longer strike in the meantime allowing an opportunity for a tremendous increase in the importation of foreign steel, resulting of course in layoffs. Should this effect have been explained in the program?

(6) In the interest of a full picture, should the program have pointed out the extensive debate that takes place on the floor of the Steelworkers' convention instead of giving the impression that resolutions are routinely adopted with no discussion. The record clearly shows that anyone desiring to speak on any resolution may do so up to a reasonable limit. No group can, of course, filibuster issues to death and a majority of the convention can limit debate after a significant number of speaker, pro and anti the resolution, are heard. It's been my experience those opposed to the resolution always have much more time in relation to their voting strength than those supporting resolutions. Maybe CBS should have given at least equal time to the overwhelming majority of 5000 other locals present at the convention. Maybe they could have explained their position but, maybe that was not the purpose of the program.

My family learned a lesson. In the future, I hope they know there are at least two sides to every position. They at least know now, seeing it on CBS does not make it true.

The question remains, why did you do it?

Sincerely,

James J. McFadden
President

JJM:hh

You ask if the audience should have been informed that steel locals elect delegates to participate in the ngotiations with the steel companies and state that it is these delegates who accept or reject a proposed contract. We could not so inform the audience because it isn't true. If ~~by~~ THE "delegates" you refer to are the Wage Policy Committee members, they are in~~x~~ fact elected at district conferences, but they have no vote. As the USWA Officers Report 1978 states: "The duties of the committee members are confined to the initiation and formulation of wage policy for our entire membership." Those who do vote on the contract are the local union presidents in basic steel who comprise the Basic Steel Industry Conference. The local union~~px~~ presidents are elected, but they are elected as union presidents not as negotiators.

I refer you to the New York Times report on the last steel negotiations in 1977: "The five-member leadership teams from both sides that have spent the last month in intensive discussion . . . have been locked up with the gold at Fort Knox for all that anyone outside the union and industry high command has bee allowed to know of the degree of progress. . . . Several hundred lesser officials on both sides have been negotiating on minor issues, but until now they have had no inkling of what was happening under the big top, or more accurately, in the bathysphere. The first ~~xxfix~~lifting of the veil will come tomorrow when the union team reports to the organization's 30 member international Executive Board. On Friday the 600 members of the union's basic steel industry conference will be told officially whether there is an agreement and be given a chance to vote on it if there is." (NYT, 4/6/77) When the conference was given the chance to vote on the agreement, a standing vote of 148 - 143 rejected it. A second vote was then taken on a roll-call, and it was on that vote, 193 - 99, that the agreement was accepted. "Mr. McBride said that'alot of emotion had contributed to the first tally. . . He also noted that many of the 600 local union presidents left Washington before the vote to be with their families for the Easter holidays." (NYT, 4/10/77)

148 193
143 99
291 292
→ or less than half of the 600

That's a far cry from a referendum vote in which each steelworker cast a vote on the proposed contract which is the right he has under the constitution.

CBS
NEWS
A Division of CBS Inc.
524 West 57 Street
New York, New York 10019
(212) 975-2787
Robert Chandler, Vice President
and Director, Public Affairs Broadcasts

Dear Mr. Ripley: April 4, 1979

Thank you for your letter to Mr Paley. He has asked me to reply, since I am responsible for CBS REPORTS.

I'm pleased that you wrote. As you might imagine, we've been getting a bit of heat from the International, which has complained we were unfair and misleading.

We didn't think so, and your letter will be very valuable to me in dealing with some of those complaints. I'm grateful, and I'm also delighted that "Inside the Union" squared things for you with "The Guns of Autumn." Incidentally, you might be interested to know that they were produced by one and the same person, Irv Drasnin.

Sincerely,

Robert Chandler

Mr. Frank I. Ripley
P.O. Box 1
Three Oaks, Michigan 49128

bcc I. Drasnin

Bob C

Mr Lenard -

Rec acknowledge d. really — up

22 March 1979

ear Mr. Paley,

First of all, I want to express my appreciation for your program entitled "Inside the Union." Talk about the truth hurting! I am a former Shop Steward, and I work in the same District as Local 1010, at the Burns Harbor Plant in Chesterton Indiana. It is represented by USWA Local 6787.

I am responding to a letter which I'm sure that you have recieved from the USWA International Union President, Loyde McBride. With a great deal of bitterness and anxiety, I will give you a former Shop Stewards response.

Your program was not distorted and inaccurate. It would be fair to consider it representative of how Basic Steel employees feel. And some of the statements made by Loyde McBride are typical of his attitude that we would be lowered to the "lowest denominator." I take great exception to his insinuation that we Basic Steelworkers are stupid. We're sick and tired of being told by the International what is good for us.

Let me address myself to some of the statements made in that poor excuse of a letter to the membership. It does the International no justice, your program does.

Now, I can't believe that lie that all of the Staff Representatives are elected. Some Staff representatives represent Locals who cannot afford to send their own delegates. So they can supposedly represent those same Locals as they would expect to be represented. Furthermore, all Staff Representatives automaticlly go to the conventions even if the Locals don't want them to go. Since they're all appointed by the International President, it's obvious as hell who already has an edge in the Conventions.

While on the subject of Conventions, I wonder how many people are aware of the fact that Company Representatives are invited to our Union Conventions? Could you imagine the results had Eisenhower invited Hitler to his strategy meetings?

Sure, Local Union Presidents vote for or against our contracts. The bad part about it, is that they can ratify a contract and it can be signed, sealed, and delivered before the membership can see it.

Yes, we can strike. Once every three years, if we get approval from the International, and only at contract time. The Company agrees and signs agreements with the threat of a strike, and as soon as the threat is gone, they back down on their agreements and there isn't a thing we can do about it. Ask our Local about Local Agreements and the right to strike. At least there we don't lower ourselves to the lowest denominator when we ratify our Local Agreements. We had our Local agreements agreed to in 1977. We still havn't had them all implemented. The only work stoppage we are allowed under the Bethlehem contract is under safety and health. But there's a catch. It has to be a condition "changed from the normal hazards inherent to the operation."

WILLIAM S. PALEY

MAR 29 1979

In other words, if we have 350 tons of molten steel hauled over our head every day, it is an inherent hazard. There's not much that we can do about it even if someone gets burned to death, and we've had our share. One thing for sure, we can't have a work stoppage!

In response to the statement "procedures for bargaining designed to best represent our members," I have to laugh. Let me site an experience. While as a Shop Steward representing 72 members, our shop processed in excess of 500 complaint dealing with various contractual and Local agreements. The sickest part about it is that we did not catch it all. Imagine the chaos if every shop in the Plant of 6,000 Union members files 500 complaints in one year. We do not have enough money to fight for all of our complaints and grievances. We can't even afford to keep full time Grievance and Safety Committees. You know why? Because we send two-thirds of our monthly dues to the International. We can be worn out and beaten just by having the Company run us out of money. Since Basic Steel as a whole did not help McBride get elected, politics takes over, and we're accused of not running our Local unions properly. No, we don't expect any help from the International. No wonder people are talking about withdrawing from the International. We are a paper tiger and everyone knows it. We're lucky to have that though. The ENA is a buy off and Basic Steel knows that too. They give you $150 to give up your right to withhold your services, You can't put a price on the right to strike. Another statement: "the results speak for themselves." Yes, they sure do. With friends like the International, we certainly don't need enemies. We already have enough.

Your program scared the hell out of the International, especially so because International elections are comming up. We just paid for politics with these letters which I'm sure were mailed to every Basic Steelworker, at least. That's a lot of grievance money.

Your network ticked me off with the "Guns of Autumn," but you sure made amends with "Inside the Union." You showed it like it really is. The letter that I just recieved verifies that. The problem is, is that you've shown us something that we have known and felt for a long time. The saddest part of the truth is thatthe system that is supposed to protect our Union members decreasing ranks continues to roll on it's self-destructive course and the people it is hurting, through apathy, will no doubt forget on election day. I'm not talking politics, I'm talking about survival. The prospects don't look good. Thank you.

Frank I. Ripley

Frank I. Ripley

THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN
The DIOCESE of OHIO
THE RT. REV. JOHN HARRIS BURT, BISHOP

CHURCH HOUSE
2230 EUCLID AVENUE • CLEVELAND, OHIO 44115
TELEPHONE (216) 771-4815

March 9, 1979

CBS-TV
51 W. 52nd Street
NYC NY 10019

We are very interested in obtaining a copy of the script to your excellent CBS Report on "Local 1010 of U.S. Steel", which was aired Tuesday March 6, 1979 at 8:00 PM in Cleveland.

Would you be kind enough to send us a copy along with a statement for any costs involved.

Thank you very much

Suzanne E. Watson

21095 1579

301 Ash
Muscatine, Iowa 52761
March 7, 1979

RECEIVED
J. H. ROSENFIELD
MAR 13 1979
AM 7 8 9 10 11 12 1 2 3 4 5 6 PM

Mr. James H. Rosenfield
President
CBS Television Network
51 West 52nd Street
New York, N.Y. 10019

Dear Mr. Rosenfield:

The one-hour program concerning the Steelworkers' Union was, in my judgment, a tremendous disservice to labor unions, management, and the general public. The Steelworkers' Union and the management of the steel companies are making a sincere attempt to find new and better ways of contract negotiations. This new approach has very lofty objectives:

1. They are attempting to find common denominators which can produce fair agreements. Objectives which attempt to tie wage and benefit increases to productivity, consider inflation, recognize foreign competition, and yet maintain the steelworker as one of the best, if not the best, paid industrial workers in the world are certainly worthwhile.

2. Put negotiations and contract settlements on formulas which recognize the above realities. This hopefully will reduce the threat of violence, strikes, and economic hardships not only on the steelworkers and the steel companies, but the entire country.

It was expected the thrust of your program would investigate what this new enlightened approach was accomplishing, and some of the pitfalls it was encountering. Instead, it was prefaced with some happenings in 1935. Then immediately, the program focused on the feelings of one local and their violent objections concerning this new enlightened bargaining technique. Nowhere were the proposed benefits to unions, management, and the entire country by this breakthrough in industrial relations explained.

I have absolutely no connection with the steel industry or steel unions. Part of my job is involved with industrial relations. The attempt of steelworkers and steel management to put negotiations on the basis of cooperation rather than confrontation, the consideration of the general public, and the general economy of our country is an idea that should excite everyone.

A union member certainly got all the negatives from your program. Had the program been shown in 1935, it might have been timely. Today it merely excited the same prejudices we must as a country find ways of overcoming.

The general public suspects the news media of promoting confrontation rather than cooperation. No program concerning unionism could have done more to disrupt this forward-looking attempt at honest cooperation in an area, union-management relationships, vital to the economic progress of our country. Nothing less than a public admission of a poor program not reflecting the true picture of the situation can even partially rectify the harm this program has done.

Few programs could move me to write such a letter. But networks must accept some responsibility for presenting fair reporting and some realization of the harm resulting from poor presentations.

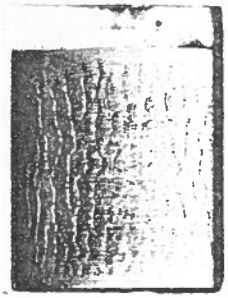
I realize most of the comments you receive are negative. When we see something we agree with, we don't usually acknowledge it by letter. It is hoped this letter is not prefaced on my personal bias, but a resentment of a poor portrayal of facts.

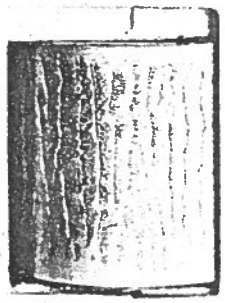
Sincerely,

Glen Bloom

Glen A. Bloom

dt





6 March 79

Dear Sir:

I wish to comment on a show which was aired today. It was about Steel Arms. The show was really interesting and I enjoyed it very much.

The question I have is there has been a lot said about Arms but what about large companys that are successful without the help of Arms. For example I have a relative who works for American Textile Loggers in R.I. And Jim operates them, a company with a concerned management doesn't wear to have people unite for help for some form of protection. I'll wonder this can be shown CBS about successful non-violent non-union Organizations

Thank You

Mr. Jack Lee 9130 Summit Dr.
Jonesboro, GA 30236

March 5,1979

William Barger
1743 Princeton Road
Altoona,Penna.16602

C B S News
New York
N.Y.

NOTE. Please! not for Publication. or quote by name.

5 MAR 1979

Dear Sirs:

This is to let you know how very happy I am that you are going to have a C B S reports hour concerning organized labor.While I am not a steel worker and thus I do not know their union,I am a union member of some thirty years with some experience and understanding of the union workings

Unions and their operations are loosely defined as democratic in their processes.Nothing could be further from the truth.While some functions of the union take on all the trappings of a democratic process,other processes within the union are neither democratic nor representative of the views of the membership.

The local,IBEW 2273,of which I am a member generally salutes the flag and recites the pledge to the flag,has a reading of previous minutes and a general discussion period that would be considered democratic if it were not for the fact that out of a membership of about 500 brothers it is difficult to get a quorum of seven brothers to attend.

Decisions are made that are hierarchic by virtue of the general memberships acquiescence.A willingness on the part of the general membership to accept this type of unionism and the willingness of a few to accept ;or perhaps I should say ;grab the opportunity to exercise the power of a local union office with all of its opportunities for self gratification.This is the unionism that I see operating in this country today.

The price that the non in-volved union member pays in dues and lost opportunities to participate in the unions decisions are evidently not too high a price to pay for non-involvement or to put it more selfishly; "why should I get involved in something that doesn't concern me?I look out for me!"

Neverthe-less the higher up the union chain of command,the less the appearance of a democratic organization.In perpetuity do they rule.Appointing only those who will be faith ful to the status quo;the international representatives at the local level promulgate,idolisize,and defend the actions or lack of it of the international leadership.Every challenge has a response that is geared to protecting the status quo.

If I were to believe what I am told the I B E W is practicing nepotism at the very highest levels.The last convention supposedly found issues cut and dried with appointments to positions made for loyal service. The President of our esteemed union made out OK with what I heard was a twenty thousand dollar raise.You see I really don't know what went on and I know of no way to officially find out.I was told that the convention had the you take care of me and I will take care of you approach to its activities.

The I B E W Journal carried a glossy account of the convention activities but it failed I believe to carry information such as the raise for the President;at least I didn't see it.

In a discussion of the issues of the new contract it was stated by the international representative that the issue of money was the sole item that was to be voted upon by the membership in any new contract.It was further stated that issues such as work rules whichare at the heart of any contract were not open to discussion by the membership.This was new to me and evidently something the international feels it can do and get away with. Never the less it is a issue that will ultimately create the type of rank and file discontent that will result in wildcat wo rk stoppages should the present economic picture change for the worse and the rank and file become discontent.

In bed with management is an oft used phrase and perhaps adequately describes the worst in unionism.How widespread is it?that can be answered with a question!how long has it been since a union official been threatened with jail or actually gone to jail defending his memberships rights?Not too many do or even want to.The punishments for defying the system versus the rewards for going along virtually assure a steady relationship between union and management if not an outright love affair.

The union and the management are essentially working partners.Both essential;both recognizing the advantages of co-operation;both capable of either enhancing or detracting from the other and both willing if not able to,to take advantage of that relationship.It is in this setting that you can find union and management both in bed together.

While the benefactors of any union management relationship should be the shareholders in a company and the companys employees who are represented by the union;this is not always true.Too often when the union and management are sleeping together self satisfaction,self embellishment, yes,the passion of the love affair precludes any consideration of their dependents,the company shareholder and the union member.

Union and management with its pros and cons does provide us with a system with alternatives should we choose to use it;and if we are able to use it.

First management and union must want to use the system to get the best deal for themselves (the shareholder in the company and the union member).This bargaining position is apparently failing.The loser is first the company that generates the profits the shareholders want and second is company employee.

Unions seek closed shops so that regardless of performance they have income.Management must have labor peace so that they can go about the business of making a profit.Both must succeed in their efforts if they are to survive and in the American tradition of recent years the government in its efforts to be popular will try to make them both winners.There are to be no failures (bad politics)rather we will make accomodations.If the government doesn't crawl in bed with union and management it's role could be looked upon as blessing the marriage of the two and preparing the bed in which the two will make love.

The real losers in the system are everybody.The system has acquired many corrupting influences that it does not now function efficiently and it has lost the trust and the believeability that it once had.

Perhaps the greatest lose is the availability of viable alternatives. When a system has become so deeply entrenched as the present system;it is almost an impossibility to affect a change that will effectively deal with it.

Gross mismanagement to the point of dishonesty and more robs the shareholder in a company.Corruption and a lack of democracy in unions robs them of their rights in the union.And the political accommodation on the part of government to see that no one fails except the very small assures the romancing pair of some measure of sucess in self gratification even if the government has to loan them a bed to sleep in which it essentially does when it guarantees loans for new plants and equipment with little or nothing down.

I really don't have any answers for all of this critisizm,but,I will say that we are generally headed in the same direction as the European nations with whom we hold such close ties.They are in terrible shape.

I will also say that the union dues paying members dues are a pay off to the international unions for labor peace.Given a chance to pay dues voluntarially the average individual would support the union if he believed in it.He does not have that oppertunity to make that choice.How.

Out of a 13 dollar a month union dues I believe 50 cents stays in the local treasury while the other 12 dollars goes to the international for I don't know what.Fifteen years ago out of a 3 dollar and fifty cents dues, fifty cents went to the international and three dollars stayed locally.

Angry!Yes I am.But there is a new worker in the shops and mills today and they have had relative prosperity for some time.They see no reason to question the system that gives them so much.Until that time comes I don't look for any opportunities to change.

Thanks for taking the time to read this.

Please if you reply comment on confidentiality of correspondence that might be submitted to Sixty Minutes.

Thanks Again

Sincerely

W Barger

William Barger

307888 MAR 1979

2912 Dover Lane #202
Falls Church, Va 22044
March 6, 1979

CBS Reports
51 West 52nd St
New York NY 10019

Friends,

Your CBS Reports special, "Inside the Union," was a great service to the interests of American working people and to the struggle towards greater democracy.

Thank you for your continued attention to high quality news programming.

Sincerely,
Kathleen A. Staudt